

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 18 with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 9 illustrates an exemplary portion 900 of software code that includes instructions to enable and disable the error detection mechanism in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention. The portion 900 includes a first instruction 910 for setting the EDE bit 810 in the control register 800 and a second instruction 930 for clearing the EDE bit 810 in the control register 800. Once the EDE bit 810 is set, the error detection mechanism of the invention is enabled to detect soft errors in critical code 920. The software code prior to instruction 910 and the code subsequent to instruction 930 are not subject to error detection by the error detection mechanism of the invention. In this manner, the error detection mechanism of the invention can be selectively enabled to only check certain portions of code, thereby allowing a programmer to balance processor performance and processor reliability for mission critical portions of code. ~~Alternatively, special instructions that marks the beginning and/or end of a sequence of instructions that are to be checked may be employed.~~